

**MINUTES
CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY**

Tuesday, August 11, 2015

6:00 pm McCloskey Room, City Hall, 401 North Morton Street

Attending: Jana McGee, Rebecca Swanson, Molly O'Donnell, Gwen White, Teddie Mower, Stephanie Richards, Bill Brown, Jeff Jewel, Gary Charbonneau

Regrets: Dave Rollo, Joe Kielar

Staff: Jacqui Bauer, Erik Woodworth

Public: Andrea Jobe

Public comment: None

Announcements

In September, SPEA is sponsoring a Global Reporting Initiative training. One session, on September 24, will be open to the public, starting at 5pm.

Green Drinks will take place on August 26, and will feature presentations from four different non-profit organizations.

TimeBank will meet at the Public Library in Rm 2C on August 22.

Approval of Minutes: The July minutes were approved unanimously.

Presentation on Built Environment Section of STAR report – Erik Woodworth

Erik has been working with the STAR Committee to use GIS to work on the components of STAR that rely on spatial analysis. He focused on three "compact and complete communities" centers: downtown, 3rd and SR 37, and Covenanter and College Mall Road.

Within each of these areas, he then evaluated residential density. We easily exceed threshold of 12 units/acre in the downtown; west side nearly meets this threshold; east side does not meet threshold (5 vs. goal of 12+ units/acre). Similar analyses were done for employment density (threshold is 125 jobs/acre; downtown is 136.7/acre; west side very low (.96) due to methodology; east side is 1.3).

The community overall was evaluated with respect to access to parks/proximity to trails. We don't quite meet threshold for an intermediate-low density community for access to parks, but 100% of the community meets the threshold for access to trails.

Question: might it make sense to re-run the parks access data using population rather than dwelling units? This might do a better job of reflecting our high density downtown. Maybe an opportunity to suggest to STAR how they might improve

STAR Communities Update

Stephanie has been working on Economy & Jobs, and is planning to develop a summary report for that section that can be used to build support among different stakeholders for the STAR process. She will present the report at the next BCOS meeting in September.

Report from the Chair

Jeff and Bill met with the Hamilton campaign to brainstorm what the environmental agenda might look like under a new administration. The meeting included representatives from multiple other organizations as well.

Sustainability Coordinator Report

Energy Challenge update –

The Partners for Places grant was turned in yesterday, and if funded would fund an energy outreach coordinator.

The EnergyMobile will be out in neighborhoods in the next few days doing assessments in homes.

H2H update –

Jacqui will share the electronic version of the poster and a blurb for newsletters and listserves. Volunteers are needed!

Committee reports:

Environmental Commission Planning Committee: Rebecca shared her thoughts on her role in the ECPC and the five development proposals the committee considered in the last month. She shared details on one proposal (a large apartment development on the south side of town), and commented on the complex factors that impact decisions on individual parcels, such as balancing density with greenspace and forest preservation.

EC: The EC has not met yet this month.

Bring Your Bag Bloomington: The support letter was signed and has been shared with the committee in support.

New Business:

No new business.

The meeting adjourned at 7:12pm.